

And He Shall Be Called: Everlasting Father

Tagg Wolverton

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

In this week's message from our Christmas series *And He Shall be Called*, Gateway's Discipleship Pastor Tagg Wolverton walks us through the third title Isaiah gives in his Old Testament prophecy describing God's Messiah - "Everlasting Father." (Is. 9:6) With this name, the Bible is letting us know that the Messiah is One who is woven into the visible and invisible nature of the universe from before time began - and as we'll learn today, that awe-inspiring description applies solely and uniquely to the person of Jesus. To get your group started today, let everyone share - what person comes to their mind when they think of greatness? Why?

BIG THOUGHT

Although our culture today tends to only recognize Jesus as a spiritual teacher, the Bible makes it clear that He is the eternal source and power undergirding and sustaining all that exists.

Dig

1. Our text for study today is in Colossians chapter one where Paul goes into great detail as he describes the eternal nature and work of Jesus. Read Colossians 1:15. Who's image does Jesus have? How is it helpful for us to know that Jesus shows us the true representation of God and His heart for us? Why is it important to acknowledge that Jesus is superior (the meaning of the word "firstborn") over everything else that we see or experience in Creation?
2. Now read v. 16. How much of the world did Jesus create? How does this speak to His eternal power and divinity? Which of the things listed in the verse are the most impressive to you? Which are the hardest to understand? For whose use is all of Creation created? How should this influence our decision about whether or not we choose to trust and follow Jesus?

3. Read v. 17. What images come to your mind when you read that Jesus "holds all creation together"? How can scientific discoveries add to our appreciation of Jesus' power over the natural world - which was openly displayed through His miracles? Explain your thoughts to the group.
4. Now read v. 18. How does Jesus relate to His church? In what practical ways should this be evident? And how critical was Jesus' physical resurrection to His God-appointed role? Who else will rise from the dead in the same way (never to die again)?
5. Read v. 19-20. What incredible action did God take to reconcile us to Himself through Jesus? (v. 19) The word translated "fullness" here means "completely" - how does understanding this help explain why Jesus is the sole way to God? What do you think Paul means when he says that God reconciled "everything" to himself through Jesus? (v. 20) And how does this connect to v. 17?
6. To finish, read Jesus' own statement about His eternal purpose and power in his conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:16-17. For what goal does Jesus use His eternal power? How does it make you feel to know that you are the focus of the Jesus, the eternal source of all that exists?

Take it Further

Spend time talking with God and thank Jesus for who He is and all that He has done for you! Then pray for the people around you who don't yet know all that He wants to do for them...

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: John 10:30

Day 4: John 8:58

Day 2: Philippians 2:5-7

Day 5: Revelation 1:17-18

Day 3: John 1:14

Day 6: John 20:28-29

Memory Verses: Colossians 1:19-20



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